

New York Academy of Medicine.—Considerable interest has been shown by the medical profession throughout the country in the first "Graduate Fort-night" of the New York Academy of Medicine, on the problem of aging and of old age, which is scheduled for October 1-14, with two sessions daily at the Academy, and clinical demonstrations and lectures at thirty teaching hospitals.

Among the speakers to be present from abroad are Sir Farquhar Buzzard, Regius Professor of Physic at Oxford, and Dr. Vittorio Putti, orthopedic physician of Bologna.

The Civil Legion.—The Civil Legion is a strictly nonpartisan organization, whose membership is made up of citizens who served the national cause as members of the draft boards, councils of defense, and other authorized civil capacities during the World War and who, for various reasons, were denied the privilege of wearing the uniform.

The surviving war governors constitute the National Advisory Board, and headquarters are at 163 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois. Some twenty physicians, surgeons, and dentists constitute the California State Executive Committee. The third national convention will be held October 12-13, 1928, at Huntington, West Virginia.

MEDICAL ECONOMICS

COST OF MEDICAL CARE*

Outline of Studies

PART III

Analysis of Specially Organized Facilities for Medical Care Now Serving Particular Groups of the Population

11. Organized Medical Service in Industry and in Universities.—Subjects to be included in this study are the number of industries and universities in the United States conducting medical or health services, the number of persons served, the number of persons employed, the range of the services, their cost to the industry or university and to individual workers, a comparison with similar cost in unorganized practice, the compensation paid to physicians, dentists, nurses and other personnel.

Such a study would shed much needed light on the practical possibilities of organized medical service, especially as some evaluation of quality and of results could accompany the studies of scope and cost.

The National Industrial Conference Board has made one or more studies in this field and the United States Public Health Service has collected important data. These agencies might coöperate with the committee in a further study of industrial health service which would make available additional information, particularly on the economic problems involved. In the study of university health service, it is possible that some organization representing the field of higher education might be interested in coöperating.

This study may be made through the utilization of existing reports supplemented by questionnaires.

12. Pay Clinics and Group Clinics.—One important pay clinic that was operated by the Cornell University Medical School has been made the subject of an illuminating study by the Committee on Dispensary Development. The usefulness of this study suggests the value of a study of a considerably larger number of such institutions. It would be useful to know how many there are, and to what extent they have succeeded in reducing the cost of service for persons of moderate means. It would be especially important to determine to what extent these institutions pay adequate compensation to physicians and others employed.

While there are many more "private group clinics" than "pay clinics," apparently less is known regarding their operation. It would be necessary first to define

the term "private group clinics" and then to arrive at a classification of the many different kinds now operating. It would be particularly interesting to know how many, or what proportion, have a person on the staff who gives special attention to the problem of management.

In connection with the study of pay clinics it might be desirable to consider the development of the Health Center movement which has advanced rapidly since the war, and to consider all general clinics where various types of service may be obtained, for the purpose of determining to what extent institutions are coming into existence in the United States in which complete diagnostic and therapeutic treatment is available under one administrative head and to what extent the patient pays for the cost of such service.

This study may be made through the use of questionnaires and field work.

13. Recent Developments in Services Rendered to Persons Not Indigent by State, Municipal, and County Hospitals.—This study would reveal the extent to which municipal hospitals serve people of moderate means in both in-patient and out-patient departments. It would also deal with such questions as what per cent of the total population are served by municipal hospitals, how much money is invested in them, how the money is raised and what compensation is paid to the physicians and other personnel.

There has been in recent years a significant growth in county, town and township hospitals, but there seems to be no information available as to the number of states with laws providing for their establishment and no data on the number of institutions which have been built. The Agricultural Department in Washington has made an illuminating study of this field, but it does not go far enough into the economics of the subject.

Gradually, in recent years, state hospitals have become active in serving, not only the indigent, but also patients of moderate means. This is a trend of considerable importance. How far it has developed no one knows. It is obviously important to determine the facts.

The participation of local health departments in the operation of hospitals and clinics might also be considered in connection with this study. The study of municipal health departments practice in one hundred largest cities dealt with the subject, but the schedule of questions on the operation of hospitals and clinics seems to have been unsatisfactory. Information is needed on health department hospitals and clinics not only in the one hundred largest cities, but in all cities having health departments.

This is a questionnaire study.

14. Visiting Nurse Societies.—There has been considerable criticism of the work of the visiting nurse, and it has been said that she is sometimes inclined to usurp the functions of the physician. No impartial study has been made of the nature of the services rendered, the relationship now existing between the visiting nurse and the physician, the economic status of the patient and the extent to which the services rendered has developed in various localities in the United States. Such a study might reveal possibilities in the future development of this type of community service.

This study would require field work and the questionnaire. It might be made under the supervision of the Committee on the Grading of Nurses' Schools or with the coöperation of this organization.

15. School Health Service.—While excellent studies have been made of school health supervision in the one hundred largest cities of the United States by the American Public Health Association and the United States Public Health Service, and in eighty-six smaller cities by the American Child Health Association, these do not deal with the problem of cost nor with the subject of compensation paid to those employed. In certain rural communities significant experiments have been made in extending the scope of school health work to curative measures, but to what extent

* This is the third part of Outline of Studies on "Cost of Medical Care." Parts I and II were printed in the July and August issues.

this type of work has developed no one appears to know.

Special studies might be made of school health service which would include the subjects suggested above; or a special effort might be made to have these subjects dealt with when later investigations of municipal health department practice and studies of rural health work are conducted.

16. *The Extent of Private Medical Service on a Yearly Basis.*—Reports have come into print of a few isolated instances in which single patients or groups of patients have employed individual practitioners, on a yearly basis, to supervise their health and treat sickness when necessary. A systematic study in this field might show that greater developments have taken place than have become generally known.

A writer in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* has suggested that a community of 900 families might advantageously be provided with service on a yearly basis by the employment of three physicians at \$8000 per year with an expense budget of \$11,000, making a total of \$35,000. He estimated that 100 families might properly pay \$75 a year, 300 families \$50 per year, and 500 families \$25 per year. Thus the combined income from these sources would equal the total expense. There is a possibility that some time in the future a small community might be persuaded to inaugurate a system of community medical service on the general basis suggested above. A demonstration of this kind would be most illuminating.

The questionnaire method and field work might both be required in conducting this study.

17. *Existing Types of Health Insurance in the United States.*—The scope and cost of protection provided by life insurance companies, mutual benefit associations, fraternal orders and labor unions would be dealt with in this study. Special attention might be given to the subject of group health insurance.

This study might be made in connection with a study of labor legislation in the United States, which is being planned by the Social Science Research Council.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO *

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Volume 1, No. 11, September, 1903

From some editorial notes:

Initial Publication.—A number of papers read at Santa Barbara have appeared in other publications without the consent of the Publication Committee, or have been read before county society meetings. This action on the part of authors is, to say the least, scarcely treating the committee with the courtesy it has a right to expect. . . .

. . . Medical Societies and Public Press.—An admirable idea seems to have been born into the world by the New Castle County Medical Society of Delaware. It is no less than a plan for presenting things medical to the public in a truly ethical and professional manner. Statements which it may be desired to have placed before the public in the lay press are to be prepared and signed by a "press committee," and thus the personal advertising of the author prevented. . . .

. . . Secretaries Should Assist.—Another appeal must be made to the secretaries of county societies to send in for publication in the state journal abstract reports of the proceedings of their meetings, and personal mention of their members. . . .

. . . Santa Clara Resolutions.—The Board of Medical Examiners stands between the public and the charlatan, and is the only protection given the public by the state against the unscrupulous greed, fraud and

dishonesty of the quack and the "healer." Either an attack upon the board is justified, or it is not; if the former, then action cannot be taken too quickly; if the latter, then every reputable physician of the state should come to the support of the board and see to it that the law is carried out. . . .

. . . Final Judges of Success.—Who is the final judge of the success or failure of a given surgical procedure? This question has been suggested by a discussion at a recent meeting of a medical society. In this discussion the physicians spoke on the pathological side of the question. Admitting the improvement of the patient after the operation, they asked if it were due really to the operation that had been done, and if it were due to this, did the success come in accordance with the idea on which the operation was based or because of other conditions not taken count of by this idea? . . .

From an article on the Climate of Santa Barbara by C. M. Richter, M. D., San Francisco:

. . . It is quite an easy matter to write an article on climate, or on the climate of a certain locality by enumerating the figures of the different climatic elements, and furnishing comparisons of these figures with those of other localities. However, if one undertakes to scrutinize and to explain in detail the advantages or disadvantages which certain climatic factors in a given locality exercise on people living there, one will find this to be quite another matter. . . .

From an article on Headache as a Symptom by H. Bert. Ellis, M. D., Los Angeles:

. . . I believe that the eye is a factoral element in fully 60 per cent of all headaches, and that it is the chief factor in about 80 per cent of all headaches of the frontotemporal variety. How do we recognize eye headaches? There are several factors to be taken into consideration: First, the occupation of the individual; second, the time of day or night when the headache makes its appearance; third, the location of the discomfort; and, fourth, the character of the pain. . . .

From the Minutes of the San Francisco County Medical Society:

. . . To San Francisco County Medical Society: Your committee on memoriam to the late Dr. Matthew Gardner respectfully reports as follows:

. . . Though the inception of his professional career was as an obscure and comparatively unknown rural physician, he soon rose to eminence and distinction, and even before he had attained the full bloom of middle age he became the chief surgeon of the Hospital Association of the Southern Pacific Company.

The responsibilities of such a position require tact, energy, medical ability and surgical skill, together with executive capacity. Nature seemed to have endowed Doctor Gardner with all these qualities. . . .

W. B. Coffey, Chairman Committee on Resolutions.

From article on Board of Medical Examiners:

. . . To the President and Members of the Santa Clara County Medical Society: After a careful investigation of those matters submitted to it, relative to the suit begun to oust the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of California, your committee appointed at the July meeting to inquire into the causes leading to this action, if any there be, beg leave to report its finding as follows:

From some personal items:

. . . The Lane Course of Lectures at Cooper College, August 24-28, were delivered this year by Dr. Oscar H. Allis of Philadelphia, the general subject being "Fractures and Dislocations." . . .

. . . Dr. Walter B. Coffey, president; Dr. M. Morrison and Doctor McKenzie, vice-presidents; Dr. James T. Dunn, secretary, and Dr. F. K. Ainsworth, treasurer, have been elected the officers of the newly organized Railway Surgeons Association of the Pacific Coast.

* This column aims to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.